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ABSTRACT

This book for new college teachers is a guide to the fundamentals of college teaching organized around research-identified components of effective instruction. Individual chapters focus on enthusiasm, preparation and organization, the ability to stimulate thought and interest, clarity, and knowledge and love of the content. Chapter 1 takes an overview of effective teaching and challenges the myths that no one knows what makes teaching effective and that good teachers are born, not made. Chapter 2 on enthusiasm discusses the concrete actions that convey enthusiasm and their inherent complexities. Chapter 3 on preparation and organization covers identifying objectives and deciding on course content, designing learning activities, classroom policies and procedures, syllabus, and structure. Chapter 4 on stimulating student thought and interest covers discussions, group work, collaborative learning, and whether motivating instruction is entertainment. Chapter 5 on clarity looks at discerning whether students understand, making content relevant, and using examples effectively. Chapter 6 challenges prevalent assumptions about content and its role in teaching. Chapter 7 is on assessing student learning and teaching effectiveness and looks at evaluating exams, written work, project and presentations, and grades. Each chapter offers suggestions for further reading. Contains 34 references. (JB)

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